Please find below, Utah State Parks and Recreation news for June 22:

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- Operation Dry Water at Lake Powell and Willard Bay State Park
- Youth Off-Highway Vehicle, Personal Watercraft Education Courses Now Available Online
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

OPERATION DRY WATER AT LAKE POWELL AND WILLARD BAY STATE PARK

Willard – Utah State Parks boating rangers, in partnership with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and U.S. Coast Guard, sponsor two boating under the influence (BUI) checkpoints Saturday, June 26 at Halls Crossing Marina area on Lake Powell and the South Marina at Willard Bay State Park. Other local enforcement agencies will assist in the effort.

Operation Dry Water is a coordinated, national weekend of BUI detection and enforcement aimed at reducing the number of alcohol-related accidents and fatalities.

In 2007, U.S. Coast Guard statistics indicate 21 percent of all boating fatalities were a result of alcohol use. This continues an upward trend in the percentage of fatalities where alcohol was the primary cause of the accident.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and six U.S. territories.

For more information on boating in Utah, visit stateparks.utah.gov or call (801) 538-BOAT. Wear it, Utah!

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YOUTH OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT EDUCATION COURSES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Salt Lake City – In an effort to meet growing demand for off-highway vehicle (OHV) and personal watercraft (PWC) youth education courses, Utah State Parks now offers online courses at stateparks.utah.gov.

OHV course fees are \$30 and cover ATVs, off-highway motorcycles and side-by-side ATVs. PWC courses, which cover JetSki and SeaDoo-type boats, are \$34.95, which include a \$5 certification fee. Upon successful completion of coursework, students print temporary certificates valid for 60 days and later receive permanent certificates by mail.

Students are strongly encouraged to thoroughly study all materials prior to testing. If they do not pass the course, they must pay a second registration fee to retake the test.

"Safety is our number one concern. We want to reduce accidents by educating youth to operate ATVs and PWC safely, wear safety equipment, and follow laws and rules," stated OHV/PWC Education Coordinator Ann Evans. "Online courses provide easier access to education courses and allow students to learn at their own pace."

Utah law requires youth eight to 16 to complete the Utah State Parks *Know Before You Go!* OHV Education Course before operating a machine on public lands, roads or trails. It is illegal for any child under age eight to operate an OHV on public land.

Utah youth, 12 to 17 years of age, are required to complete and pass the Utah PWC Education Course in order to operate these types of boats without an adult on board. Children younger than 12, may not operate a PWC without a responsible adult on board.

Since the creation of the education courses, approximately 22,000 students have completed the PWC course and more than 60,000 students have taken the OHV course.

For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov, call (800) OHV-RIDE or (800) RIDE PWC.

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UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

July 15 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante Geology Hike - A Forest Turned to Stone: How did a forest turn to stone? Find the answer on this guided hike to the Petrified Forest. Meet at the visitor center at 11 a.m. (435) 826-4466

July 16 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park
Moon Mysteries: Meet Earth's nearest neighbor through stories and activities.
Observe the magnificent moon by telescope. Program begins at the visitor center at 9 p.m. (435) 826-4466

July 17 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Huber Grove History Tour: Tour historic Huber Grove from 10 to 11 a.m. Visit this beautiful, peaceful area and learn about the orchard. Tour is free and open to the public. $(435)\ 654-1791$

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